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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
KAZUMA SATO et al.)
Application No.: 09/781,162)
Filed: February 13, 2001)
For: EXPANDABLE MANAGEMENT)
METHOD AND SYSTEM)
Examiner: N/Y/A
Group Art Unit: 2161
October 1, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,699,546
U.S. Patent No. 6,208,432

JP 11-234467
JP 2000-352909

The Japanese documents were cited during prosecution of a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application.

English-language abstracts for the Japanese documents are enclosed, which Applicants believe provide a concise explanation of relevance of the documents to the subject application.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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